



VOTER GUIDE

2022 TOWN MEETING

WARRANT

OFFICIAL BALLOT VOTING DAY: MARCH 8, 2022 AT NOTTINGHAM SCHOOL 7AM - 7PM

In 2020, Nottingham Town Meeting adopted the “Official Ballot Referendum” system, also known as “SB2.” With this change, Town Meeting now consists of two sessions. The first, “Deliberative Session” is similar to the traditional town meeting, with voters having the authority to discuss and amend warrant articles. Final action is taken by ballot during the second session, when all articles are voted upon and officers are elected. This is the same system used by the Nottingham School District.

This voter guide is provided by the Select Board, and was updated after the deliberative session. Additional information available on the town’s web site is linked in this document.

All information and links in this document are available on the town web site:

[HTTPS://WWW.NOTTINGHAM-NH.GOV/HOME/NEWS/VOTING-MARCH-8-2022](https://www.nottingham-nh.gov/home/news/voting-march-8-2022)

Official warrant language in this text. *Background information from the Select Board in italics.*

Article # 1: To choose by ballot all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.

Article # 2: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 01 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Nottingham Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Adopt a new definition and methodology for measuring building height. This zoning amendment includes two additional related definitions.

Recommended by the Nottingham Planning Board (7-0)

Link to: [Detail and exact language](#)

Article #3: Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 02 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town of Nottingham Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Adopt new setbacks for driveway and a new definition for driveway and common driveway. A driveway to a single lot shall be setback 10’ from any property line.

Recommended by the Nottingham Planning Board (7-0)

Link to: [Detail and exact language](#)

Article #04: Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$4,419,877 (Four Million, Four Hundred Nineteen Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-Seven Dollars).

Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$4,214,137 (Four Million Two Hundred Fourteen Thousand, One Hundred and Thirty-Seven Dollars) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. The estimated tax impact is \$2.895 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0).

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (8-3).

Summary from the Budget Committee: Fire and Rescue's budget was slightly higher than last year, along with the Highway Department mainly due to the increases in raw materials used to service the roads in town. Engineering Consulting was also higher than last year because of added engineering cost on environmental sensitive areas. The Recreation Department was higher this year because of the additional staffing and extra costs associated with the Marston Property. Over all, the budget was up 4.9% from last year and with the national inflation rate at around 7%, the town did a great job at keeping the budget increase to a minimum.

[Link to Line-Item budget](#)

[Link to NH MS-737](#)

[Link to Default budget](#)

Article #05: Shall the Town vote to add three full-time personnel to the fire department, which calls for salary and benefits for the fiscal year 2023 of \$225,000 (Two Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars), and further to raise and appropriate \$75,000 (Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars) for the current fiscal year, such sum representing four months of additional costs attributable to the increase in salary and benefits. The estimated tax impact for FY 2022 is \$0.092 per \$1,000 of property valuation. Majority Vote Required.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0).

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (8-3).

This article would provide funds to add career firefighters to the permanent staff and allow the department to staff the station 24 hours/day. The Town currently relies on an On-Call 'volunteer' force to respond during evening and overnight hours.

This expanded coverage is expected to provide for faster response times; improved employee retention; and reduced dependence on the On-Call force.

Average Response Time in 2021 during hours the station is staffed: 8 minutes, 14 seconds

Average Response Time in 2021 when members had to respond from home: 20 minutes, 26 seconds.

The interest and ability of residents to "volunteer" to work as part of this Call Force continues to drop over time, and the demand for services continues to increase.

Calls for Service, 2021: 672

Calls for Service, 2011: 435

Career firefighters can work in many NH cities and towns, and Nottingham has struggled to retain qualified personnel in many cases because the work schedule offered with 24-hour departments is preferable to employees.

This step to 24-coverage is the next step in a long-planned evolution, with the increases in the town's population and service expectations. Last year, voters approved funds for renovating the station to provide bunks for 24-hour staff.

The warrant article does two things: appropriates the money for hiring the next staff later in 2022 (\$75,000); and estimates the cost of the change for a full year in 2023 (\$225,000).

Article #06: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Dollars) for highway reconstruction and maintenance work on Case Road, Oak Ridge and Flutter Street, or other roads in Nottingham if a priority arises. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the work is complete or not later than one year after the end of fiscal year 2022, whichever occurs earlier. Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.370 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0).

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (7-4).

This is a routine warrant article and amount. In some years this capital improvement work includes road reconstruction projects, and the current priority is to invest in repaving exiting asphalt roads such as those listed. Work on Case Road and Oak Ridge is expected to be coordinated with paving on the privately-owned and Maple Ridge Road in an effort to reduce costs.

Article #07: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Majority vote required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.123 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (3-2).

The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation (4-7).

This is a routine warrant article, in the same amount as prior years. The Highway Truck Fund is used to replace equipment, as seen in Article #15. The current balance of the fund is approximately \$69,000.

Article #08: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Fire Vehicle / SCBA Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Majority vote required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.123 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (3-2).

The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation (4-7).

This is a routine article and amount. This fund is used to fund replacement fire trucks and breathing apparatus for firefighters. Using a capital reserve fund spreads the costs of these major purchases over many years and saves on borrowing costs. The next truck purchase is expected in about five years. The current balance of the fund is approximately \$208,000.

Article #09: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$37,000.00 (Thirty-Seven Thousand Dollars) for the purchase of dashboard cameras for the Nottingham Police Department cruisers. Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.046 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0).

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (11-0).



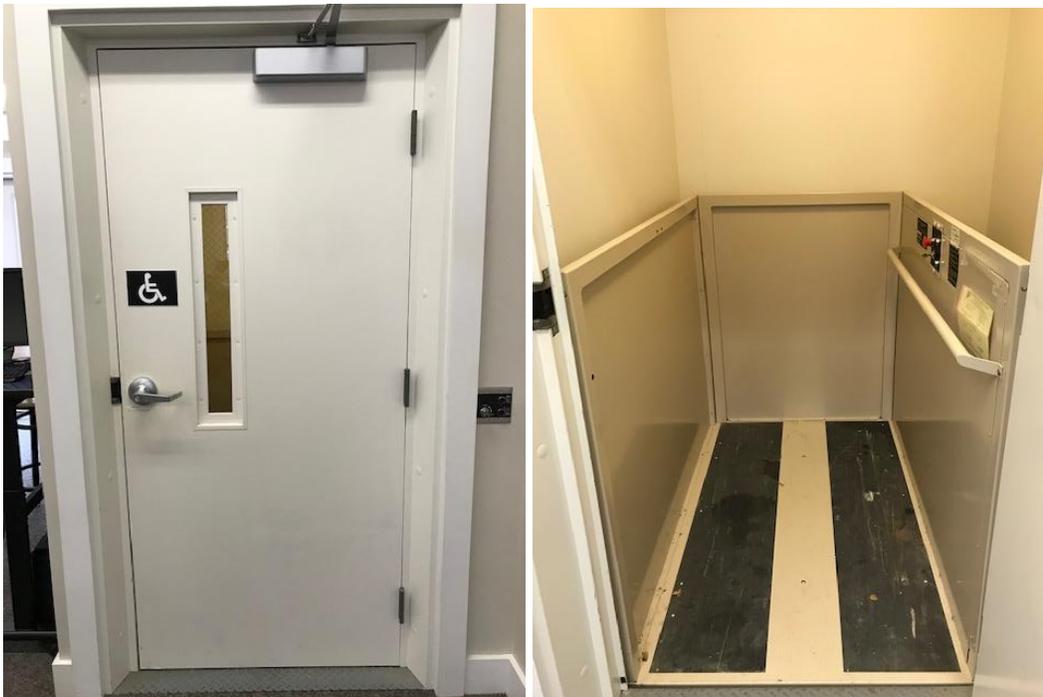
Dashboard cameras mounted in Nottingham Police cruisers will provide a higher level of service for the officers and the community by providing transparency and accountability, while providing an extra layer of safety. Cameras will also help with prosecution of crimes and complaints.

Link to: [Vendor video 1](#) [Vendor video 2](#)

Article #10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$37,000.00 (Thirty-Seven Thousand Dollars) for the purchase of a replacement Handicapped Lift for the Nottingham Public Library. Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.046 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0).

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (9-2).



The existing lift to access the lower level was installed with the building addition in 2000. In 2017 the lift was serviced and parts and wiring were replaced. However, replacement parts are very difficult to source and the lift is considered to be at the end of its service life. Once during 2018 and once during 2019 the lift became stuck in the down position. It was fixed at the time, but the cause of the issue was not resolved. If a part or service cannot be attained or if the lift fails inspection, access to the downstairs children's room/meeting room will be cut off for some clients.

Article #11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 (Twenty Thousand Dollars) to be added to the previously established Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of performing a statutory revaluation of property every five years. Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.025 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0).

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (9-2).

This is a recurring appropriation, the same amount as prior years. This Capital Reserve Fund pays for five-year revaluations required by state law. The next revaluation will take place in 2025, and this routine article spreads the cost over the five years.

Article #12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Invasive Species Prevention and Eradication Removal Expendable Trust Fund previously established. Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.012 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0).

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (7-4).

This is a routine appropriation, the same amount as prior years. The Select Board has used some of the funds each year to support the invasive species monitoring program at Pawtuckaway boat launches, and is saving some for future larger scale eradication efforts if necessary. The current balance of the fund is approximately \$41,000.

Article #13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$33,000.00 (Thirty-Three Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of purchasing the necessary fuel, supplies, equipment and maintenance to run the ambulance and billing services for 2022; and to authorize the withdrawal of \$33,000.00 (Thirty-Three Thousand Dollars) from the Ambulance and Equipment Replacement Special Revenue Fund created for this purpose. Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.00 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0).

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (11-0).

This is a routine warrant article at a similar amount to prior years. The "Ambulance Fund" collects insurance payments and funds all non-payroll costs for ambulance services. The current balance of the fund is roughly \$383,000.

Article #14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000 (Three Hundred Thousand Dollars) for the purchase of a new ambulance, and to authorize the withdrawal of \$300,000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Dollars) from the Ambulance and Equipment Replacement Special Revenue Fund created for this purpose. Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.00 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0).

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (11-0).



This article would add a second ambulance to the Nottingham fleet, a model similar to Ambulance 1, purchased in 2017. With the rate of calls continuing to increase, a second ambulance would reduce the risk of delayed response from Ambulance 1 or from neighboring mutual aid services. It would also allow for routine maintenance to both vehicles without service delays or interruptions. The department has also requested funding from the Nottingham Trustees of the Trust Funds for approximately \$116,000 to equip the new ambulance, from the Douglas McLean Trust Fund, which is dedicated to use by the department.

Article #15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$0 (Zero Dollars) for the purpose of purchasing a new Ford F350 utility truck, and to authorize the withdrawal of \$0 (Zero Dollars) from the Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund established for this purpose. Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.00 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (4-1).

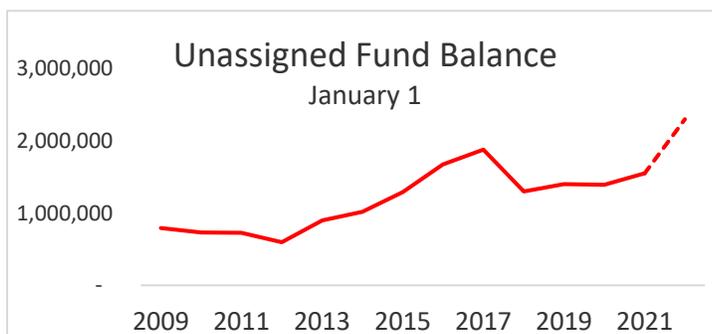
The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation (2-7-2).

Voters at the Deliberative Session amended this article to \$0, there will be no difference between its adoption or rejection by voters on March 8.

Article #16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$233,750.00 (Two Hundred Thirty-Three Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars) to pay off long-term debt acquired to purchase property known as Mulligan Forest in 2007. The sum to come from unassigned fund balance. If Article #23 is adopted, Article #23 shall take precedence over this article. The savings in principal and interest would reduce the tax rate by \$0.052 per \$1000 of property valuation beginning in 2023. Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.00 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0).

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (11-0).



With the sale of large tax deeded properties in late 2021, the Unassigned Fund Balance (“UFB”) grew significantly, to a balance of over \$2 million at year-end (un-audited). The UFB is used as the Town’s operating cash between tax billings, and as a reserve for future needs. The Select Board believes that the new balance is larger than is necessary and has proposed using a portion of the UFB to reduce debt and thereby reduce taxes. The

Town’s largest outstanding debts are the bond on the purchase of a conservation easement, noted in this article, and the bond for construction of the fire station, noted in Article #17. With approval of the articles, both debts will be retired in full and future principal and interest payments will be removed from future operating budgets.

Article #17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$136,224 (One Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Two Hundred and Twenty Four Dollars) to pay off long-term debt acquired to build the new fire

station in 2007. The sum to come from unassigned fund balance. The saving of principal and interest would reduce the tax rate impact by \$0.051 per \$1000 of property valuation beginning in 2023. Tax Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.00 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0).

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (11-0).

See explanation in Article #16.

Article #18: Shall the town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 36-A:4-a, I(b) to authorize the Conservation Commission to expend funds for contributions to 'qualified organizations' for the purchase of property interests, or facilitating transactions related thereto, where the property interest is to be held by the qualified organization and the town will retain no interest in the property. Majority Vote Required.

This article is posted at the request of the Conservation Commission, with the support of the Select Board. If approved, it would allow the Commission more flexibility in the use of conservation funds, to support the purchase of conservation easements.

Link to: [Authorizing state law](#)

Article #19: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue and relinquish all public interest in that portion of Cahill Road, beginning at the Northwest corner of Tax Map 68, Lot 51, and extending to its terminus, subject to the condition that the owner of Lot 49-2 conveys an easement for a truck turnaround at a location, and in a form satisfactory to the Board of Selectmen.



If adopted, this article would return a short portion of Cahill Lane to private ownership. This was accepted by the Town as a Class V town road in 2021, but the exact location of the road was not clear and this portion only functions as a driveway for a single family's properties. All other residents of the road will retain direct access to the town road and a truck turnaround will allow for plowing and maintenance.

Article #20: To see if the town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:61 through RSA 72:64 inclusively, which provide for an optional property tax exemption from the property's assessed value, for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property, which is equipped with solar energy systems intended for use at the immediate site. Such property tax exemption shall be in the amount equal to 100% of the assessed value of qualifying equipment under these statutes. Majority Vote Required. By citizen petition.

Link to: [Legal Review of Petitioned Articles – Select Board's Attorney](#)

Article #21: To see if the town will vote to accept, in their current condition, as Class V. Town-maintained highways, the following roads identified as Emergency Lanes by the Board of Selectmen: Sherwood Ln.; Langley Ln.; Little John Ln.; Snow Lane; Rogier Place, beginning at its intersection with Water St., bearing Northwest at the fork and ending at Tax Map 1, Lot 124; and Water St.; beginning at its intersection with Cooper Hill Rd. And ending at Tax Map 1, Lot 107.

The combined length of these roads is approximately .7 miles (7/10ths of a mile) and have been maintained by the town for several decades. Majority Vote Required. By citizen petition.

Link to: [Legal Review of Petitioned Articles – Select Board’s Attorney](#)

Article #22: To see if the town will vote to authorize \$300,000 (Three Hundred Thousand Dollars) of the Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) collected pursuant to RSA 79-A:25 to be deposited into the existing Conservation Fund in accordance with RSA 36-A:5, III, as authorized by RSA 79-A:25, II. LUCT collected in excess of \$300,000 shall be deposited in the General Fund. The \$300,000 shall be a cumulative limit to be held in the Conservation Fund. If adopted this article shall take effect April 1, 2022, and shall remain in effect until altered or rescinded by a future vote of the town meeting. Majority vote required. By citizen petition.

Link to: [Legal Review of Petitioned Articles – Select Board’s Attorney](#)

Article #23: To Reduce our property taxes, shall we direct the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission to use the Conservation Fund to pay off the town’s remaining long-term debt from the 2007 purchase of the Mulligan Forest Conservation Easement? Majority vote required. By citizen petition.

Link to: [Legal Review of Petitioned Articles – Select Board’s Attorney](#)

Article #24: In order to promote transparency and ensure our elected officials represent the interests of Nottingham’s taxpayers, shall we direct the School Board to allow public access to all negotiations of union contracts and collective bargaining, by conducting all such negotiations as meetings open to the public, with advance public notice of time and place, minutes recorded and made available, and time allotted for public comment? Majority vote required. By citizen petition.

Link to: [Legal Review of Petitioned Articles – Select Board’s Attorney](#)

Article #25: To reduce the amount of waste the town must pay to dispose of, and to enable the reuse of salvageable materials, shall we direct the Board of Selectmen to allow town residents to pick and take reusable materials and objects, at their own risk, from the recycling center dumpsters? Majority vote required. By citizen petition.

Link to: [Legal Review of Petitioned Articles – Select Board’s Attorney](#)

Statement from the Select Board on Warrant Article #25

The Select Board has no desire to interfere with the rights of voters to adopt citizen submitted petition warrant articles. In the case of Article #25 on next week’s Town Ballot, we want to ensure that voters understand that there is some risk associated with adoption of this article.

Article #25 BOS statement, continued

The article calls for allowing the removal of materials and objects from the recycling center dumpsters. We understand and applaud the desire to reuse salvageable items, however, we have four concerns: 1) potential for physical injury to town residents, 2) liability to the Town in the event of injury, 3) the limited capacity of recycling center employees to monitor the activity and ensure safety, 4) removal of materials that would normally generate revenue for the Town.

We are not asking you to vote one way or another on this article, we simply ask that you consider both the upside and potential risks.

Article #26: Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-b, and implement a tax cap whereby the governing body (or budget committee) shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes, based on the prior fiscal year's actual amount of local taxes raised, by more than 4%? Majority vote required. By citizen petition.

Link to: [Legal Review of Petitioned Articles – Select Board's Attorney](#)

The following persons will appear on the ballot for the March 8, 2022 Town Election:

Board of Selectmen - 1 position, three year term

John Morin

Eugene Reed

Budget Committee – 1 position, one year term

Douglas C. Bates

Robert Kelly

Budget Committee – 3 positions, three year term

Brent Tweed

John Decker

Sandra Jones

Michael Kelly

Cemetery Trustee – 1 position, three year term

Teresa L. Bascom

Library Trustee - 2 positions, three year term

M. Kate Knight-Dupuis

Jennifer Phillips

Moderator - 1 position, two year term

Dawn Fernald

Planning Board – 2 positions, three year term

Eduard R. Viel

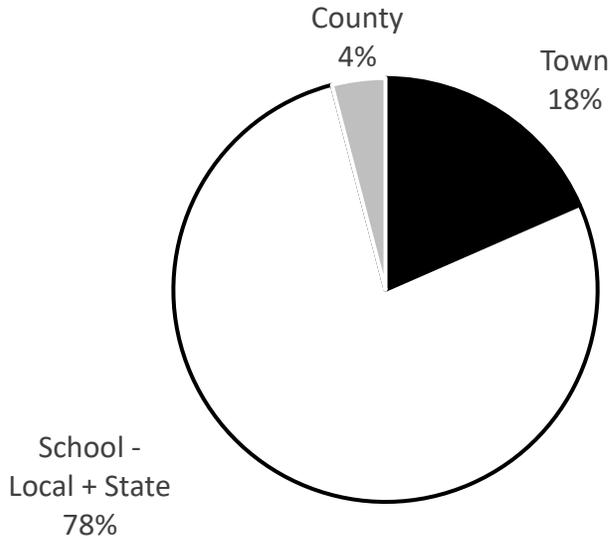
Supervisors of the Checklist - 1 position, six year term

Alexandra Neff

Trustee of the Trust Funds – 1 position, three year term
Denise Blaha

Zoning Board – 1 position, three year term
Kathy Mayo

Tax Rate Components 2021



Amount Raised from Property Taxes

